

New law establishes the Livingston Parish Museum and Cultural Center within the Dept. of State. Provides for governance of the museum by a board comprised of members who have a knowledge of and an interest in historical preservation and the history of Livingston Parish as follows:

- (1) Five members appointed by the secretary of state, subject to Senate confirmation, to serve terms concurrent with the appointing authority.
- (2) Four members appointed by the board of directors of the Livingston/Doyle Cultural Association to serve four-year terms.

Provides that members shall serve without compensation. Requires that the board:

- (1) Meet at least once a quarter at the call of the chairman.
- (2) Create an executive committee consisting of the chairman and vice chairman of the board and other board members as the board determines. Provides relative to the executive committee as follows:
  - (a) A majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum, but approval of a majority of the full committee shall be required to take any action authorized by the board.
  - (b) The committee shall meet at the call of the board chairman.
  - (c) The committee shall consider any matter or take any action as directed by the board or as necessitated by emergency. Requires ratification by the board of any action taken by the committee which was not specifically authorized by the board.
- (3) Adopt bylaws and establish policies and procedures for the museum's governance including matters relative to: officers, advisors, the museum director, the museum chief administrative officer which position may be filled by the director, the appointment, duties, and functions of committees which may include nonboard members, and the preparation of a budget and plan for funding the museum at a sufficient level to qualify for and maintain accreditation.
- (4) Establish policies, rules, and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act relative to operation of the museum, including the setting of admission, tour, user, and rental fees. Provides that user or rental fees shall reflect the actual cost of maintaining the space and market rates of comparable space in the area.
- (5) Advise the secretary of state regarding the museum.
- (6) Establish and use a seal.

Authorizes the board to seek and expend funds to support the programs of the museum, contract with persons to carry out new law, authorize reports and recommendations including publication of a newsletter.

Requires that the Dept. of State's budget request and the governor's executive budget include funds sufficient to support the museum. Requires that funds appropriated for operation of the museum be used for such purpose and in accordance with the budget plan required by new law. Prohibits the Dept. of State from charging any administrative costs associated with placing the

museum within the department.

Authorizes the department and the board to solicit and accept funds and other property for the museum either as loans or donations and provides with respect thereto. Authorizes the museum to serve as the beneficiary of any public trust created for such purpose. Grants the board authority of deaccession with respect to any collection of the museum and in case of such deaccessions exempts the board from existing law relative to sale or disposal of surplus property. Requires board policies and procedures to carry out such authority.

Provides relative to unclaimed property loaned to or otherwise left with the museum. Provides that such property shall become property of the museum after 10 years and after notice according to specified procedures. Provides relative to loans of museum property. Provides that museum collections shall be available for use in educational projects subject to board approval.

Provides that the secretary of state shall have authority to approve specified personnel actions of the board and shall be responsible for and shall have the authority to transfer or implement functions relating to accounting, payroll, budget control, procurement, data processing, and personnel management. Provides that new law shall not authorize monies, property, or personnel budgeted or assigned to the board to be transferred to the department without approval of the board.

Provides that books, papers, monies, and property of the museum and its board are transferred to the Dept. of State, but shall be owned, possessed, controlled, and used by the museum and the board. Prohibits removal of records, books, or papers from the museum vault or museum premises without approval of the board.

Provides that any employees are transferred to the department and otherwise subject to the Act. Protects any existing museum obligations.

Effective on the effective date of a legislative appropriation of funds for purposes of new law. (No such appropriation was made during the 1999 R.S.)

(Adds R.S. 25:380.31-380.36 and R.S. 36:744(O) and 801.10)